(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reservation for women

171. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's working group has recommended 33 per cent reservation for women in all IITs, IIMs, Central universities and other higher and technical educational institutes and a caste-based census on the basis of which future policies can be framed;

(b) if so, the other main recommendations made by the group; and

(c) how many of its recommendations have, so far, been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A final view has not been taken on the recommendations of the Working Group on "Development of Education of SC/ST/Minorities/Girls and other Disadvantaged Groups" for Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) constituted by the Planning Commission.

Enrolment in higher education

†172. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target has been fixed to make an increase of upto 15 per cent of admissions in the higher education in the coming years in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any plan has also been formulated to achieve this target;

(d) if so, the target of establishing universities and colleges in the country under this plan during 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(e) the grounds to be given priority to establish new additional universities and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is proposed to be increased to 15% by the end of the XI Plan (2011-2012).

(c) to (e) Public investments are expected to be enhanced during Eleventh Five Year Plan, both for establishing new colleges and new universities as well as for strengthening the existing institutions. Central universities, State Universities and Colleges will be supported for crerating adequate infrastructure in order to address the concerns of quality, access and equity in higher education.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

An important strategy of expansion consists of development of institutional capacity in all institutions with special focus on backward, rural, remote areas and small towns. Resources permitting, Government is considering to establish 30 new Central Universities and to provide some assistance to the State Governments, to incentivise them to establish at least one college in each district which has a low GER, during the Eleventh Plan period.

Abolition of NCTE

173. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to do away with the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) by repealing the NCTE Act, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) With a view to assessing whether NCTE has fulfilled its mandate, a Review Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, former Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee has *inter alia*, recommended that the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993 may be repealed. The recommendations are under examination of the Government.

Co-operation between India and Pakistan in Education

174. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE;
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to gear up for major cooperation in the field of education which could result in exchange of books between NCERT and National Book Foundation, Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to share the expertise and experience of the two countries in the fields of elementary, secondary and adult education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have decided to explore possibility of exhange of experiences between the NCERT and National Book Foundation, Pakistan and to reproduction of textbooks; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) A Working Group on